

(Public Hearing, Lewiston, Idaho, October 2, 1997)

12 BY MR. GEORGE ENNEKING:

13 Thank you very much. I'm George Enneking. I'm a County  
14 Commissioner in Idaho County. I also work for  
15 Senator Kempthorne. I want to thank you for the opportunity  
16 to be here today, and I'm just going to say a couple words.  
17 Senator Kempthorne has some written testimony here and I'll  
18 submit that if I may and I'll just summarize real briefly  
19 what he says.

20 What he says is that he is not in favor of introducing  
21 any grizzly bears in the State of Idaho, and the only way he  
22 would be in tune with any plan that comes forth is if the  
23 people of Idaho are the authors of such a plan. And I firmly  
24 believe that that is the way to go myself. I think that any  
25 time that people from outside of the state come and dictate

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1 to us what our best things are for the State of Idaho, I  
2 think we are on the wrong track. I think we need to do that  
3 ourselves.

4 And with that, all I can say is that Senator would  
5 definitely like to be here. I will give this to you for  
6 written testimony. I have I think about ten copies. I don't  
7 know how many you need. If you need more than that, I can  
8 sure arrange to get them for you.

9 Now I would like to say a couple words from the Idaho  
10 Association of Counties which I'm also the chairman of the  
11 Idaho Public Lands Committee of Idaho Association of  
12 Counties. The counties in Idaho are all adamantly opposed to  
13 grizzly bear reintroduction into the Selway Bitterroot. We  
14 have several meetings in the last two years about this and  
15 every time it has been a unanimously decision to say no,  
16 absolutely no.

17 And from an Idaho County prospective where these bears  
18 are to be introduced, I can only say hell no, we have no  
19 place for them. Right now, right now we are being shut down  
20 on our activities on mining production, on our forest lands.  
21 All this would be -- would be another -- what would you call  
22 it, a stone to bury us with.

23 I do not see where this could help in any way  
24 whatsoever. When we introduced a species that will cause  
25 more gridlock into what we are doing on our National Forests.

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1    There are those from the ROOTS organization that believe that  
2    this is maybe the only way to go. I sympathize with their  
3    thoughts, but I fail to see where introducing something to  
4    create a problem is going to help the problem. If this could  
5    be done without introducing bears, than I might have some  
6    different thoughts about this, but right now I do not.

7           And the people in Idaho County, and I think I could  
8    speak very well with the folks in Idaho County, are saying  
9    no, we do not want bears and not only no but hell no. And  
10   with that, thank you very much for being here.